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ID

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/270,983	03/17/99	HAY	B 06618/284001

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HM12/0816

EXAMINER

HUTSON, R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED:

08/16/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/270,983

Applicant(s)

Hay et al

Examiner

Richard Hutson

Group Art Unit

1652



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 17, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

- ☒ Claim(s) 1-56 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☒ Claims 1-56 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a fusion protein comprising a reporter polypeptide, protease cleavage site and a repressor polypeptide, classified in class 530, subclass 350.
 - II. Claims 10-15, drawn to a DNA encoding a fusion protein comprising a reporter polypeptide, protease cleavage site and a repressor polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 252.3.
 - III. Claims 16-32, drawn to a method for identifying a protease that recognizes a specific cleavage site, classified in class 435, subclass 23.
 - IV. Claims 33-56, drawn to a method of identifying a protease inhibitor or activator, classified in class 435, subclass 4.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the fusion protein comprising a reporter polypeptide, protease cleavage site and a repressor polypeptide of Group I, and the nucleic acid encoding said fusion protein of Group II each comprise a chemically unrelated structure capable of separate manufacture, use and effect. The protein of

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Group I is comprised of amino acid sequence and the DNA of Group II is comprised of nucleic acid sequence. The DNA has other utility besides encoding the protein such as a hybridization probe, and the protein can be made synthetically. Additionally, the protein can be used to perform specific biological function(s) which are independent of the function(s) of the DNA molecule.

Inventions I and III or IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the fusion protein product of group I can be used for either of the two distinct methods of groups III or IV or further for additional expression methods or to induce antibodies.

The DNA of Group II is unrelated to the methods of Group III or IV as they are neither used nor made by the method of Groups III or IV.

Further still if the invention of group II and those of groups III or IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (M.P.E.P. § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the DNA of group II could be used in a method to produce the fusion protein of group I.

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3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. *"For purposes of the initial requirement, a serious burden on the examiner may be prima facie shown if the examiner shows by appropriate explanation either separate classification, separate status in the art, or a different field of search as defined in MPEP 808.02."* (see MPEP 803). A telephone call was made to Lisa Haile on 8/1/2000 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

4. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Hutson whose telephone number is (703) 308-0066. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 7:30 to 4:00.

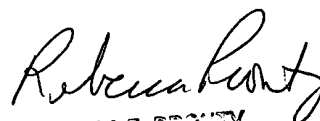
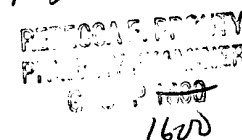
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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapy Achutamurthy (Murthy), can be reached on (703) 308-3804. The fax number for Official Papers to Technology Center 1600 is (703) 305-3014.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.



Richard Hutson Ph.D.
8/14/2000

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